

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 03609 270846Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PER-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
SCA-01 VO-03 /028 W
-----270858Z 128521 /17

R 270800Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1723
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS/AFST, AMGT, CZ
SUBJECT: VISAS FOR FSLS

REF BUDAPEST 4249

IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY BUDAPEST'S INQUIRY ON PROCEDURES
FOR SECURING VISAS FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE OFFICIAL TRAVEL,
FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF CURRENT SITUATION IN PRAGUE:

1. REQUIREMENTS

THE LOCAL EMPLOYEE MUST, OF COURSE, HAVE A VALID PASSPORT.
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL THEN ISSUE A VISA
FOR TRAVEL TO THE WEST UPON RECEIPT, WITH THE PASSPORT,
OF WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE LOCAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES,
CLEAN CRIMINAL RECORD, AND WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE OFFICE
OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (SSDS).

2. TIME

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MILITARY APPROVAL IS GENERALLY GRANTED ON DAY OF
SUBMISSION. EVERY CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZEN IS REQUIRED
IN THEORY TO HAVE IN HIS POSSESSION A CURRENT
CRIMINAL RECORD (THESE MUST BE UPDATED EVERY SIX MONTHS).
SHOULD THE EMPLOYEE HAVE A LAPSED RECORD, IT NORMALLY TAKES

2-3 WEEKS TO HAVE IT UP-DATED. SSDS APPROVAL MUST BE REQUESTED BY EMBASSY NOTE STATING REASON FOR TRIP AND DATE OF DEPARTURE. SSDS APPROVAL IS NORMALLY ISSUED WITHIN ONE WEEK, ALTHOUGH THIS OXBCCE OFFICIALLY STATES THAT 2-3 WEEKS ARE REQUIRED. IN A REAL EMERGENCY AND WITH EMBASSY PRESSURE SSDS APPROVAL CAN BE SECURED ON THE SAME DAY. AVERAGE TOTAL TIME FOR SECURING VISA: 1-2 WEEKS. MAXIMUM TIME FOR AN ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE: 4 WEEKS.

3. FEE

STAMP AND CUSTOM FEES AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY \$10.00 PER TRIP.
O:4. COMMENT:

ALTHOUGH A UECIFIC DEPARTURE DATE MUST BE GIVEN TO SSDS WHEN REQUESTING THE VISA, THIS DATE DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE VISA, AND VISAS ARE VALID FOR A SIX MONTH PERIOD (I.E. ONE TRIP ABROAD DURING THIS PERIOD). REQUIREMENT FOR DEPARTURE DATE, WHILE MEANINGLESS AT PRESENT, COULD FACILITATE TIGHTER CONTROL OVER VISA-ISSUANCE PROCEDURE SHOULD GOC DESIRE THIS IN FUTURE.
EXEMPT.
BYRNE

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Disposition Authority: ullricre
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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